



## Watchdog: Federal anti-terror unit investigated journalists

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A special Customs and Border Protection unit used sensitive government databases intended to track terrorists to investigate as many as 20 U.S.-based journalists, including a Pulitzer Prize-winning Associated Press reporter, according to a federal watchdog. Yahoo News, which published an extensive report on the investigation, also found that the unit, the Counter Network Division, queried records of congressional staffers and perhaps members of Congress. Jeffrey Rambo, an agent who acknowledged running checks on journalists in 2017, told federal investigators the practice is routine. "When a name comes across your desk you run it

through every system you have access too, that's just status quo, that's what everyone does," Rambo was quoted by Yahoo News as saying. The AP obtained a redacted copy of a more than 500-page report by the Homeland Security Department's inspector general that included the same statement, but with the speaker's name blacked out. The border protection agency is part of Homeland Security. The revelations raised alarm in news organizations and prompted a demand for a full explanation. "We are deeply concerned about this apparent abuse of power," Lauren Easton, AP's director of media relations, said in a statement.

Continued on next page



Border Patrol agents hold a news conference prior to a media tour of a new U.S. Customs and Border Protection temporary facility near the Donna International Bridge in Donna, Texas, May 2, 2019.

Associated Press

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**Continued from Front**

"This appears to be an example of journalists being targeted for simply doing their jobs, which is a violation of the First Amendment."

In its own statement, Customs and Border Protection did not specifically address the investigation, but said, "CBP vetting and investigatory operations, including those conducted by the Counter Network Division, are strictly governed by well-established protocols and best practices. CBP does not investigate individuals without a legitimate and legal basis to do so." An employee at Storymakers Coffee Roasters, a small storefront shop Rambo owns in San Diego's Barrio Logan neighborhood, said Saturday that Rambo was not immediately available to comment. He lives in San



**A U.S. Department of Homeland Security plaque is displayed a podium as international passengers arrive at Miami International Airport where they are screened by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Nov. 20, 2020, in Miami.**

**Associated Press**

Diego. The new disclosures are just the latest examples of federal agencies using their power to examine the contacts of journalists and others.

Earlier this year Attorney General Merrick Garland formally prohibited prosecutors from seizing the re-

ords of journalists in leak investigations, with limited exceptions, reversing years of department policy. That action came after an outcry over revelations that the Trump Justice Department had obtained records belonging to journalists, as well as Democratic

members of Congress and their aides and a former White House counsel, Don McGahn.

During the Obama administration, federal investigators secretly seized phone records for some reporters and editors at the AP. Those seizures involved office and home lines as well as cellphones.

Rambo's and the unit's use of the databases was more extensive than previously known. The inspector general referred possible criminal charges for misusing government databases and lying to investigators, but the Justice Department declined to prosecute Rambo and two other Homeland Security employees.

Rambo complained to Yahoo News that Customs and Border Protection has not stood by him and that he has been unfairly portrayed in news reports.

"What none of these articles identify me as, is a law enforcement officer who was cleared of wrongdoing, who actually had a true purpose to be doing what I was doing," he said, "and CBP refuses to acknowledge that, refuses to admit that, refuses to make that wrong right."

Rambo had previously been identified as the agent who accessed the travel records of reporter Ali Watkins, then working for Politico, and questioned her about confidential sources. Watkins now writes for The New York Times.

Rambo was assigned to the border agency unit, part of the National Targeting Center in Sterling, Virginia, in 2017. He told investigators he initially approached Watkins as part of a broader effort to get reporters to write about forced labor around the world as a national security issue.

He also described similar efforts with AP reporter Martha Mendoza, according to an unredacted summary obtained by Yahoo News. Rambo's unit "was able to vet MENDOZA as a reputable reporter," the summary said, before trying to establish a relationship with her because of her expertise in writing about forced labor. Mendoza won her second

Pulitzer Prize in 2016 as part of a team that reported on slave labor in the fishing industry in Southeast Asia.

Dan White, Rambo's supervisor in Washington, told investigators that his unit ran Mendoza through multiple databases, and "CBP discovered that one of the phone numbers on Mendoza's phone was connected with a terrorist," Yahoo News reported. White's case also was referred for prosecution and declined. In response, AP's Easton said, "The Associated Press demands an immediate explanation from U.S. Customs and Border Protection as to why journalists including AP investigative reporter Martha Mendoza were run through databases used to track terrorists and identified as potential confidential informant recruits." It was Rambo's outreach to Watkins that led to the inspector general's investigation. While he ostensibly sought her out to further his work on forced labor, Rambo quickly turned the focus to a leak investigation. Rambo even gave it a name, "Operation Whistle Pig," for the brand of whiskey he drank when he met Watkins at a Washington, D.C., bar in June 2017.

The only person charged and convicted stemming from Rambo's efforts is James Wolfe, a former security director for the Senate Intelligence Committee who had a personal relationship with Watkins. Wolfe pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with reporters.

In the course of conversations with FBI agents, Rambo was questioned extensively about his interest in Watkins. He used the travel records to confront her about her relationship with Wolfe, asserting that Wolfe was her source for stories. Watkins acknowledged the relationship, but insisted Wolfe did not provide information for her stories. Rambo said Watkins was not the only reporter whose records he researched through government databases, though he maintained in his interviews with the FBI that he was looking only at whether Wolfe was providing classified information. □

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# California governor wants Texas-like law to ban assault guns

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)**

— California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Saturday pledged to empower private citizens to enforce a ban on the manufacture and sale of assault weapons in the state, citing the same authority claimed by conservative lawmakers in Texas to outlaw most abortions once a heartbeat is detected.

California has banned the manufacture and sale of many assault-style weapons for decades. A federal judge overturned that ban in June, ruling it was unconstitutional and drawing the ire of the state's Democratic leaders by comparing the popular AR-15 rifle to a Swiss Army knife as "good for both home and battle." California's ban remained in place while the state appealed.

Meanwhile, Republican lawmakers in Texas this year passed a law banning abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected, which normally occurs at about six weeks into pregnancy. The Texas law allows private citizens to enforce the ban, empowering them to sue abortion clinics and anyone else who "aids and abets" with the procedure. Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the Texas law to remain in effect



California Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses reporters after beating back the recall that aimed to remove him from office, at the John L. Burton California Democratic Party headquarters in Sacramento, Calif., Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021.

Associated Press

while abortion clinics sue to block it. That decision incensed Newsom, a Democrat who supports abortion rights.

"If states can now shield their laws from review by the federal courts that compare assault weapons to Swiss Army knives, then California will use that authority to protect people's lives, where Texas used it to put women in harm's way," Newsom said in a statement released by his office at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Newsom said he has directed his staff to work with the state's Legislature and its Democratic attorney general to pass a law that would let private citizens sue to enforce California's ban on assault weapons. Newsom said people who sue could win up to \$10,000 per violation plus other costs and attorneys fees against "anyone who manufactures, distributes, or sells an assault weapon" in California.

"If the most efficient way

to keep these devastating weapons off our streets is to add the threat of private lawsuits, we should do just that," Newsom said.

The legal fight over the Texas abortion law has focused on its unusual structure and whether it improperly limits how the law can be challenged in court. Texas lawmakers handed responsibility for enforcing the law to private citizens, rather than state officials. The case raised a complex set of issues about who, if

anyone, can sue over the law in federal court, the typical route for challenges to abortion restrictions.

Newsom's gun proposal would first have to pass California's state Legislature before it could become law. The Legislature is not in session now and is scheduled to reconvene in January. It usually takes about eight months for new bills to pass the Legislature, barring special circumstances. State Sen. Brian Dahle, a Republican from Bieber, would oppose the plan but predicted it could probably pass California's Democratic-dominated state Legislature. He said the proposal was most likely a stunt for Newsom to win favor with his progressive base of voters ahead of a possible run for president in the future.

"The right to bear arms is different than the right to have an abortion. The right to have an abortion is not a constitutional amendment. So I think he's way off base," Dahle said. "I think he's just using it as an opportunity to grandstand."

But Newsom's Saturday night declaration is a fulfilled prophecy for some gun rights groups who had predicted progressive states would attempt to use Texas' abortion law to restrict access to guns. □

# Sequoia National Park opens Giant Forest that survived fire

**SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP)**

— Sequoia National Park will reopen its Giant Forest area on Saturday, three months after a Northern California wildfire prompted extraordinary efforts to protect the grove and destroyed thousands of other redwoods.

The Giant Forest will be open during daylight hours on Saturday and Sunday and after that it will open from Thursdays through Sundays. The grove will go to a seven-day schedule between Christmas and New Year's if winter weather allows, the park said.

Visitors were warned to bring their own food and water since none is available in the grove.

The Giant Forest includes the General Sherman tree, the largest living thing on earth by volume. The grove had been closed since mid-September, when a fire complex caused by lightning tore through the Sierra Nevada.

Fire crews took extreme measures to protect the largest and oldest trees in the Giant Forest. They wrapped trunks in a fire-resistant foil, set up sprinklers, raked flammable matter from around the trees and dropped fire-retardant gel onto the tree canopies, some of them 200 feet (60 meters) above ground.

The measures helped save the Giant Forest but they couldn't be deployed ev-

erywhere.

Fires in Sequoia National Park and surrounding Sequoia National Forest tore through more than a third of groves in California and torched an estimated 2,261 to 3,637 sequoias, park officials said.

Nearby wildfires last year killed an unprecedented 7,500 to 10,400 giant sequoias that are only native in about 70 groves scattered along the western side of the Sierra Nevada range.

Losses now account for 13% to 19% of the 75,000 sequoias greater than 4 feet (1.2 meters) in diameter.

The trees are reliant on periodic low-intensity fire and were once seen as



A giant sequoia, right, shows blackened scarring from the forest fire, seen during a media tour of Redwood Canyon Friday, Oct. 15, 2021 in Kings Canyon National Park, Calif.

Associated Press

fire-resistant. But fires that have become more severe as climate change has brought hotter droughts and fires have torn through

dozens of groves in the Sierra Nevada mountains in the past six years, killing the giants in large numbers for the first time. □



# Cries and candle scents: Over 100 feared dead after twisters

By **BRUCE SCHREINER and DYLAN LOVAN**

**MAYFIELD, Ky. (AP)** — Workers on the night shift at Mayfield Consumer Products were in the heart of the holiday rush, turning out Christmas candles, when a tornado closed in on the factory and the word went out to "duck and cover."

Autumn Kirks pulled down her safety goggles and took shelter, tossing aside wax and fragrance buckets to make room. She glanced away from her boyfriend, Lannis Ward, and when she looked back, he was gone. On Sunday, he was among scores of people missing and feared dead in the rubble of the factory.

With Kentucky's governor warning that the state's death toll from the tornado outbreak Friday night in Mayfield and other communities could exceed 100, Kirks and others waited in agony for news of their loved ones while the rescue effort grew bleaker by the hour.

"Not knowing is worse than knowing right now," she said. "I'm trying to stay strong. It's very hard right now."

Forty of the 110 people who were inside the factory were pulled out soon after the twister struck, authorities said. Rescuers had to crawl over the dead to get to the living at a disaster scene that smelled like scented candles.

But by the time churchgoers gathered Sunday morning to pray for the lost, more than 24 hours had elapsed since anyone had been found alive.

"It'll be a miracle if we pull anybody else out of that. It's now 15 feet deep of



**In this aerial photo, a collapsed factory and surrounding areas are seen in Mayfield, Ky., Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021. Tornadoes and severe weather caused catastrophic damage across multiple states Friday, killing several people overnight.**

Associated Press

steel and cars on top of where the roof was," Gov. Andy Beshear said on CNN. "Just tough."

Kentucky was the worst-hit state by far in an unusual mid-December swarm of twisters across the Midwest and the South that leveled entire communities and left at least 14 people dead in four other states.

"I can tell you from reports that I've received I know we've lost more than 80 Kentuckians. That number is going to exceed more than 100," Beshear said.

"I've got towns that are gone, that are just, I mean gone. My dad's hometown

— half of it isn't standing. It is hard for me to describe. I know people can see the visuals, but that goes on for 12 blocks or more in some of these places."

He said that going door to door in search of victims is out of the question in the hardest-hit areas: "There are no doors." With afternoon high temperatures forecast only in the 40s, tens of thousands of people were without power.

Kirks said she and her boyfriend were about 10 feet apart in a hallway when someone said to take cover. Suddenly, she saw sky and lightning where a wall

had been, and Ward had vanished.

"I remember taking my eyes off of him for a second, and then he was gone. I don't know where he went, don't have any idea," she said. Kirks was at a ministry center where people gathered to seek information about the missing.

"It was indescribable," Pastor Joel Cauley said of the disaster scene. "It was almost like you were in a twilight zone. You could smell the aroma of candles, and you could hear the cries of people for help. Candle smells and all the sirens is not something I ever ex-

pected to experience at the same time."

The tornado that carved the path of destruction in Kentucky touched down for an extraordinary and potentially record-breaking distance of more than 200 miles (320 kilometers). Eleven people were reported killed in and around Bowling Green alone.

The storm was all the more remarkable because it came in December, when normally colder weather limits tornadoes.

The outbreak also killed at least six people in Illinois, where an Amazon distribution center in Edwardsville was hit; four in Tennessee; two in Arkansas, where a nursing home was destroyed and the governor said workers shielded residents with their own bodies; and two in Missouri.

Debris from destroyed buildings and shredded trees covered the ground in Mayfield, a city of about 10,000 in western Kentucky. Twisted sheet metal, downed power lines and wrecked vehicles lined the streets. Windows were blown out and roofs torn off the buildings that were still standing.

In the shadows of their crumpled church sanctuaries, two congregations in Mayfield came together on Sunday to pray for those who were lost. Members of First Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church met in a parking lot surrounded by rubble, piles of broken bricks and metal.

"Our little town will never be the same, but we're resilient," Laura McClendon said. "We'll get there, but it's going to take a long time." □

## Paul Revere family artifacts found in attic up for auction

**CANTON, Mass. (AP)** — Artifacts once owned by Paul Revere's family are up for auction.

The items were found in the attic of a home in Canton, Massachusetts believed to have been owned by the family of the legendary Revolutionary War figure, The Boston Globe reports.

They include tools such wrought iron calipers, letters and other personal items. There's also an account book belonging to Paul Revere's descendants and a sign painted black bearing the name of Paul Revere's son, Joseph W. Revere.

John McInnis Auctioneers

in Amesbury is selling the items as a single lot in an auction that runs from Friday to Saturday. The auction house estimates the items could fetch between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

Owner John McInnis told the Globe that the sign is likely related to the casing company the Revere fam-

ily owned in Canton, a Boston suburb.

Revere was famed for his midnight ride on April 18, 1775, in which he warned the American colonial militia that the British Army was approaching ahead of the battles of Lexington and Concord. The ride was immortalized in Henry

Wadsworth Longfellow's 1861 poem, "Paul Revere's Ride."

Revere was born and lived mostly in Boston. He purchased a home in Canton in 1801 and later opened the Revere Copper Company on the land, and his descendants built other operations there. □



# G7 warns Russia of 'massive' consequences if Ukraine invaded

By JILL LAWLESS

LIVERPOOL, England (AP)

— The Group of Seven economic powers told Russia on Sunday to "de-escalate" its military buildup near the Ukrainian border, warning that an invasion would have "massive consequences" and inflict severe economic pain on Moscow.

Foreign ministers from the United States, Britain and the rest of the G-7, joined by the European Union's foreign affairs chief, issued a joint statement declaring themselves "united in our condemnation of Russia's military buildup and aggressive rhetoric towards Ukraine."

The G-7 called on Russia to "de-escalate, pursue diplomatic channels, and abide by its international commitments on transparency of military activities," and praised Ukraine's "restraint." "Any use of force to change borders is strictly prohibited under international law. Russia should be in no doubt that further military aggression against Ukraine would have massive consequences and severe cost in response," the statement said.

Russia's movement of weapons and troops to the border region dominated weekend talks among foreign ministers from the G-7 wealthy democracies in the English city of Liverpool.



G7 Foreign and Development Ministers pose for a group photo in Liverpool, England Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021. From left, Italy's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Marina Sereni, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze, Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin Jr., Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, Italy's Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, Britain's Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly, Canada's Minister of International Development Harjit Sajjan, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell and Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof.

Associated Press

The U.S. and its allies worry that the buildup could be precursor to an invasion, and have vowed to inflict heavy sanctions on Russia's economy if that happens. Moscow denies having any plans to attack Ukraine and accuses Kyiv of its own allegedly aggressive designs. British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, the conference host, said the G-7 was sending a "powerful signal to our adversaries and our allies." The statement promised

a "common and comprehensive response" but contained no details. Truss said the G-7 was "considering all options" when it came to economic sanctions. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that "we are prepared to take the kinds of steps we've refrained from taking in the past" if Russia didn't step back.

The U.S. and its allies have played down talk of a military response to defend

Ukraine, with efforts focusing on tough sanctions that would hit the Russian economy, rather than just individuals.

In the U.S., reporters asked President Joe Biden on Saturday about the possibility of sending combat troops to Ukraine, and he said that idea was never considered. "Are you ready to send American troops into war and go into Ukraine to fight Russians on the battlefield?" he said.

Biden, who spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin on a video call last week, said he had made clear that in the event of an invasion, "the economic consequences for his economy are going to be devastating. Devastating."

Truss said Biden had made clear to Putin that the U.S. stance "carries the support of the G-7 countries as a whole. And that should be very concerning for Vladimir Putin."

China's muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific region and the ailing Iran nuclear deal were also on the agenda for the meeting of top diplomats from the U.K., the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan at the dockside Museum of Liverpool.

Getting a unified response to global crises from the G-7, a group of countries with disparate interests, has often proved tough.

Germany plans on getting gas from Russia soon through the contentious Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which bypasses Ukraine — though Blinken said it was hard to see the pipeline becoming operational "if Russia has renewed its aggression on Ukraine, if it takes renewed action."

"So I think President Putin has to factor that in, too, as he's thinking about what he's going to do next," he said. □

# Spanish island volcano eruption hits local record of 85 days

MADRID (AP) — A volcanic eruption in Spain's Canary Islands shows no sign of ending after 85 days, becoming the island of La Palma's longest eruption on record Sunday.

The eruption has surged and ebbed since it first began spewing lava on Sept. 19. It has since destroyed almost 3,000 local buildings and forced several thousand people to abandon their homes.

On Sunday, after several days of low-level activity, the Cumbre Vieja volcano suddenly sprang to life again, producing loud explosions and blowing a

vast cloud of ash high into the sky.

Scientists say volcanic eruptions are unpredictable. Spanish experts had initially said the La Palma eruption could last up to three months.

Mariano Hernández, the island's senior government official, described the volcano as "stable" in recent days.

"The fact is that all the key indicators have been low," he told Spanish public broadcaster RTVE. "But the scientists won't say exactly when it might come to an end."

He said experts continue to

measure the number and magnitude of earthquakes in the area and local sulfur dioxide levels.

From Saturday to Sunday, authorities recorded 24 earthquakes, but none was felt by local people.

Despite the damage, no injuries or deaths have been directly linked to the eruption. Much of the area covered by rivers of lava, which are dumping molten rock into the sea, is farmland.

Life has continued largely as normal on most of La Palma, where a section of the southwestern side is hardest hit.

The volcanic Canary Is-



A soccer field is covered by black ashes as lava flows from the volcano, on the Canary island of La Palma, Spain, Monday, Dec. 6 2021.

Associated Press

lands, which are a favorite warm weather vacation

site for Europeans, lie off Africa's northwest coast. □



# Satellite images, expert suggest Iranian space launch coming

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Iran appears to be preparing for a space launch as negotiations continue in Vienna over its tattered nuclear deal with world powers, according to an expert and satellite images.

The likely blast off at Iran's Imam Khomeini Spaceport comes as Iranian state media has offered a list of upcoming planned satellite launches in the works for the Islamic Republic's civilian space program, which has been beset by a series of failed launches. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard runs its own parallel program that successfully put a satellite into orbit last year.

Conducting a launch amid the Vienna talks fits the hard-line posture struck by Tehran's negotiators, who already described six previous rounds of diplomacy as a "draft," exasperating Western nations. Germany's new foreign minister has gone as far as to warn that "time is running out for us at this point."

But all this fits into a renewed focus on space by Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, said Jeffrey Lewis, an expert at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of



**In this satellite photo by Planet Labs Inc., a support vehicle stands parked alongside a massive white gantry that typically houses a rocket on the launch pad as activity is seen at the Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Semnan province, Iran, Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

International Studies who studies Tehran's program. With Iran's former President Hassan Rouhani who shepherded the nuclear deal out of office, concerns about alienating the talks with launches that the U.S. asserts aids Tehran's ballistic missile program likely have faded.

"They're not walking on eggshells," Lewis said. "I think Raisi's people have a new balance in mind." Iranian state media did not acknowledge the activity at the spaceport and Iran's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a

request for comment. The U.S. military, which tracks space launches, did not respond to requests for comment.

Satellite images taken Saturday by Planet Labs Inc. obtained by The Associated Press show activity at the spaceport in the desert plains of Iran's rural Semnan province, some 240 kilometers (150 miles) southeast of Tehran.

A support vehicle stood parked alongside a massive white gantry that typically houses a rocket on the launch pad. That support vehicle has appeared

in other satellite photos at the site just ahead of a launch. Also visible is a hydraulic crane with a railed platform, also seen before previous launches and likely used to service the rocket.

Other satellite images in recent days at the spaceport have shown an increase in the number of cars at the facility, another sign of heightened activity that typically precedes a launch. A building also believed to be the "check-out" facility for a rocket has seen increased activity as well, Lewis said.

"This is fairly traditional pre-launch activity," he told the AP.

The activity comes after Iran's state-run IRNA news agency on Dec. 5 published an article saying its space program had four satellites ready for launch. It described one, the low-orbit imaging satellite Zafar 2, as being "under the final phase of preparation." Zafar, which means "victory" in Farsi, weighs some 113 kilograms (250 pounds).

The Zafar 1, however, failed to enter orbit after a February 2020 launch at the spaceport. That launch used a Simorgh, or "Phoenix," rocket, but it failed to put the satellite into orbit at the correct speed, according to Iranian officials at the time. Iran had spent just under 2 million euros to build the satellite.

Iran's civilian space program has seen a series of setbacks and fatal explosions plague it in recent years. One mysterious blast even caught the attention of then-President Donald Trump in 2019, who tweeted out what appeared to be a classified U.S. spy satellite picture of the explosion's aftermath with the caption: "The United States of America was not involved in the catastrophic accident." □

# Israel to remove security detail for Netanyahu family



**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sarah casts their votes at a voting station in Jerusalem, Sept. 17, 2019.**

**Associated Press**

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — An Israeli parliamentary committee voted Sunday to stop pro-

viding personal security for former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife

and adult sons, six months after the longtime leader was ousted from power. The decision, which goes into effect Monday, came despite pleas from Netanyahu that his family is regularly subjected to threats on their lives.

Netanyahu was unseated from the prime minister's office in June after a constellation of political parties united in their opposition to him succeeded in forming a government without his long-ruling Likud party. The one-time leader, who served as prime minister for 12 consecutive years, is now the opposition leader and continues to have a state-issued security detail. Under standard proce-

dures, security and a chauffeured vehicle are granted to the family of a former prime minister for the first six months after he leaves office. But in January, at Netanyahu's insistence, that limit was extended by a ministerial committee to one year.

On Sunday, the same ministerial committee adopted a recommendation from the Shin Bet security service to reduce the period back to six months.

It said there were no imminent threats to Netanyahu's wife or children.

Netanyahu's sons Yair and Avner, and wife Sara, will lose their security detail on Monday.

"When the Shin Bet, Israel

Police, and the Mossad say that there is no threat to the Netanyahu family, the decision is easy," Public Security Minister Omer Barlev tweeted following the vote. "I am counting on the Shin Bet and police that if there is such a threat, it will be uncovered and dealt with."

Netanyahu criticized the anticipated decision as political in a Facebook video released Friday, saying there were regular threats made against the lives of his family and that "the writing is on the wall." He called on members of the committee, which included security officials, not to "abandon the security of my wife and children." □







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## As violence in Haiti spikes, aid groups struggle to help

By **DÁNICA COTO** and **EVENS SANON**  
Associated Press

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— A spike in violence has deepened hunger and poverty in Haiti while hindering the very aid organizations combating those problems in a country whose government struggles to provide basic services.

Few relief workers are willing to speak on the record about the cuts — perhaps worried about drawing attention following the October kidnapping of 17 people from Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries — 12 of whom remain held hostage.

But several confirmed, without giving details, that they had sent some staff out of the country and have been forced to temporarily cut back aid operations.

Gang-related kidnappings and shootings have prevented aid groups from visiting parts of the capital, Port-au-Prince, and beyond where they had previously distributed food, water and other basic goods. A severe shortage of fuel also has kept agencies from operating at full capacity.

"It's just getting worse in every way possible," said Margaret Lubin, Haiti director for CORE, a U.S. nonprofit organization.

"You see the situation deteriorating day after day, impacting life at every level,"



**A resident crawls away with a donated bag of rice after residents temporarily overtook a truck loaded with relief supplies, in Vye Terre, Haiti, Aug. 20, 2021, six days after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the area that destroyed tens of thousands of homes and killed more than 2,200 people.**

Associated Press

Lubin said, adding that aid organizations have gone into "survival mode."

Few places in the world are so dependent on aid groups as Haiti, a nation frequently called "the republic of NGOs." Billions of dollars in aid have been poured through hundreds — by some estimates several thousand — of aid groups even as the government has grown steadily weaker and less effective.

Shortly after the July 7 assassination of the president, Prime Minister Ariel Henry assumed leadership of a country still trying to regain political stability. Nearly all the seats in parliament are

vacant and there's no firm date yet for long-delayed elections, though Henry said he expects them early next year.

Less than a dozen elected officials are currently representing a country of more than 11 million people.

And in the streets, the gangs hold power.

More than 460 kidnappings have been reported by Haiti's National Police so far this year, more than double what was reported last year, according to the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti.

The agency said Haitians are "living in hell under the yoke of armed gangs.

Rapes, murders, thefts, armed attacks, kidnappings continue to be committed daily, on populations often left to fend for themselves in disadvantaged and marginalized neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince and beyond."

The agency added: "Without being able to access these areas under the control of gangs, we are far from knowing and measuring the extent of these abuses and what Haitians really experience on a daily basis..."

"Humanitarian actors have also limited their interventions due to the security risks to their staff and ac-

cess challenges," it added. Large organizations like the U.N. World Food Program have found alternate ways to help people, such as using barges rather than vulnerable trucks to ferry goods from the capital to Haiti's southern region. But smaller organizations don't always have such means.

World Vision United States, which is based in Federal Way, Washington and helps children in Haiti, told The Associated Press that it has relocated at least 11 of 320 employees as a result of the violence and is taking undisclosed security measures for other staff.

Water Mission, a South Carolina nonprofit, said it's exploring relocating to other areas in Haiti and it said kidnappings and overall violence have forced it to change staffing plans to ensure people's safety.

"These issues sometimes result in slower progress in our ongoing safe water project work," the organization said. "However, we continue with our work despite any temporary interruptions that arise."

The difficulties come at a time of growing pleas for help. A magnitude 7.2 earthquake in mid-August destroyed tens of thousands of homes and killed more than 2,200 people. The country also is struggling to cope with the recent arrival of more than 12,000 deported Haitians, the majority from the U.S. □



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MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM. These two locations are at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome.

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## Aruba to me..... Christmas Edition

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and 31st.

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## COVID-19 Status on Aruba

**ORANJESTAD – Rules and protocols are being reviewed and evaluated on a daily basis and adapted as per current situation by a crisis team, in order to protect each and every one visiting and residing our island.**

### Covid Status:

There are currently 196 active cases. 167 are residents and 28 non-residents. 177 deceased. There are 7 persons hospitalized in Aruba of which 5 are in ICU. Due to lack of staff at the hospital they have to send patients over to Colombia for treatment. There are currently 7 persons at the ICU in Colombia.

### Vaccination Status:

A total of 83,857 of the total population has been vaccinated of which 78,294 persons received both shots of the vaccine and 5,563 received only the first shot. Children as young as 12 years are being vaccinated. For the senior population of 60 years and older a total of 21,656

received both shots and 995 received only the first shot. Aruba is administering booster shots to persons 55 and older

The measures are as follows:

- Curfew: Eliminated.
- Closing Time: 1:00 am
- Restaurants: Max. 8 people per table.
- Social Activities and Sports: Max. people: 90 indoors, 125 outdoors.
- Funerals: Max. people: 125 (if the space is adequately large enough)
- Area Ban 7:00 pm - 5:00 am
- Nightlife: Dancing is not permitted
- Entertainment: Max 5 musicians on stage.
- Gathering Ban: Max. 6 people.

The following measures remain applicable:

- Masks: Use of masks is mandatory inside at all establishments.
- Alcohol: Ban of alcohol on public roads: 24 hours.

- Social Distancing: Continue maintaining social distance. ☐

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## Attractions and Sightseeing locations in Aruba



**ORANJESTAD** — There are enough sightseeing locations on the island to fill up a month-long vacation. Aruba's beaches are a big attraction, and although it's great to spend long days just relaxing on the beach and listening to the ocean, there are also plenty of opportunities to get to know Aruba's most attractive sights, historical and natural

attractions, and museums. Check out these attractions you don't want to miss!

### Blue Horses in Downtown, Oranjestad

This series of 8 sculptures were created by native Aruban artist Osaira Muyale. She named the project Paarden Baai, which translates to "Horse Bay". The statues were in-

stalled in 2015 and pay homage to the rich history of Aruba's horse trading industry. In the 17th Century Aruba was used by many countries (Europe, South America, Caribbean islands, and the Mediterranean) as a trading post. The most popular being cattle and horse trading. Horses were once the most important sources of livelihood for Aruba.

For 4 centuries the horse and cattle trade ran strong. At any given time Aruba was home to herds of thousands of horses that roamed the island. Aruba being the perfect trading post encouraged an extremely diverse culture and is the reason almost all Arubans speak more than 1 or 2 languages.

Each of the 8 bright royal blue horses is unique and carries its own name and personality. Pictured above is the mare Sinforosa, but you can also find Saturnina, Escapia, Rosalina, Eufrosina, Ambrosio, Bonifacia, and Celestina. The sculptures embody strength, nobility, grace, beauty and freedom. They represent the historical moment where the horses jumped from the ship decks into the Caribbean and swam to the Aruban Bay.

When you visit Aruba be sure to explore downtown Oranjestad and try to find all 8!

### The Lourdes Grotto

Named in commemoration of the famous French religious landmark, was created under the guidance of a priest named "Erkamp" and parishioners in the year 1958. The grotto, a shrine built into the rocks is located in Seroe Preto, just off the main road to San Nicolas.

A statue of the Virgin Mary, weighing 700 kilos, was hoisted into place in the grotto. Every year, on February 11 (feast of Lady of Lourdes), a procession leaves from the St. Theresa church in San Nicolas to the grotto, where a mass is performed. The grotto is located road-side and can be visited daily. Just make sure you park safely in the

event you wish to stop for pictures at this location.

### Bubali Bird Sanctuary

Watch more than 80 species of migratory birds from the Bubali watch tower, overlooking their resting and breeding area. The observation tower allows birdwatchers to get a true birds' eye view. Migratory birds, looking for lush vegetation in which to nest, find an oasis within the Bubali Bird Sanctuary. The nearby water treatment facility empties into two inter-connected man-made bird ponds. Birds that inhabit the sanctuary include herons, egrets, gulls, skimmers, coots, ducks, and more. Located within walking distance of the Palm Beach resorts, the Bubali Bird Sanctuary offers some unique bird watching opportunities. You can't miss it as it is located just in front of the historical Old Dutch Windmill. Make sure to bring your camera as many of these birds will randomly fly by the observation tower giving a little show. This is a great place to bring kids for a unique and possibly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be so close to the untamed.

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## Inflation is painfully high, but some relief may be coming

By **STAN CHOE and CATHY BUSSEWITZ**

AP Business Writers

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Inflation is painfully high, but this hopefully is close to as bad as it gets.

Consumer prices rose 6.8% for the 12 months ending in November, a 39-year high. Many economists expect inflation to remain near this level a few more months but to then moderate through 2022 for a variety of reasons. And they don't see a repeat of the 1970s or early 1980s, when inflation ran above 10% for frighteningly long stretches.

Households could even see relief in some areas within weeks. Prices have dropped on global markets for crude oil and natural gas, which is filtering into lower prices at the pump and for home heating. That should keep inflation somewhat in check, even if prices keep rising elsewhere in the economy.

To be sure, economists say inflation will likely stay higher than it was before the pandemic, even after it eases through 2022. More often than not in the last 10 years, inflation was below 2%, and it even scraped below zero during parts of 2015. The bigger danger then was too-low inflation, which can also lead to a weak economy.

"This is not going to be an easy fix," said Nela Richardson, chief economist at ADP. "Just because inflation will eventually moderate doesn't mean that prices are going to go down. They're up. We're just lowering the rate of change, not the level of prices."

Russell Price, chief economist at Ameriprise, expects inflation to peak at 7.1% in December and January, for example. After that, he expects the inflation rate to fall toward 4% by the summer and below 3% by the end of the year, but to stay above 2% through 2023.

One reason for the moderation, he said, is improving supply chains. They had become ensnarled when the global economy suddenly returned to life following its brief shutdown, and



Gasoline prices are displayed at a station in Philadelphia, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

economists hope increasing availability of everything from computer chips to shipping containers will help inflation to ease.

"It's in no one's interests to have the supply chain as disruptive as it has been," Price said.

Then there's the Federal Reserve. Wall Street expects the Fed to say this upcoming week that it will accelerate its exit from a monthly bond-buying program meant to support the economy. That would open the door for it to begin raising short-term interest rates. Both the bond buying and low rates are intended to spur borrowing, which gets people and companies to buy more things. That can help drive inflation higher, as demand outstrips supply.

The U.S. government will also potentially offer less aid to households in 2022, whether that's through child tax credit payments or beefed-up unemployment benefits. That could also lead to fewer purchases by Americans, further lessening the pressure on

inflation.

Most immediately, Americans should see swings in inflation via energy costs.

A gallon of regular gasoline has fallen about 2.4% over the last month, to a little less than \$3.35 per gallon on Friday, according to AAA. That's progress, though drivers are still paying far higher prices than last year, when a gallon of regular was only \$2.16.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts gasoline will drop again to an average of \$3.13 in December and to \$2.88 for all of 2022 after averaging \$3.39 last month, the highest since 2014.

"That should provide some relief for consumers when they go to fill up their tanks. Now how much relief? That's really hard to tell,"

said Andrew Gross, spokesman for AAA. "It's really hard to gauge what sort of world events are happening. And it really doesn't take much to spike oil prices."

Oil prices have dropped for a number of reasons. On one side, nations have made agreements to boost oil supplies. On the other, the omicron variant of the coronavirus dented expectations for demand on worries it would cause lockdowns and canceled travel. Benchmark U.S. crude oil has fallen nearly 15% since the start of November.

Home heating costs are also likely to be lower than projected, although bills will still likely be higher than last year, as prices for natural gas fall with other fuels on global markets.

The average cost to heat a

home this winter will be an estimated \$972, according to Mark Wolfe, executive director of the National Energy Assistance Directors Association. That's less than the \$1,056 his group was projecting in October, but still higher than the \$888 consumers paid to heat their homes last year.

"This is a consumer beware situation," Wolfe said. "Don't get your hopes up that prices are going to come down to last year's levels."

Perhaps the biggest wild-card in where inflation is heading is what happens with workers' wages.

Workers across the country are fighting for higher pay. Deere & Co. employees recently won a deal that will deliver 10% raises immediately, for example.

Usually, companies will try to pass such increases along to their customers through higher prices. And with the unemployment rate low and companies chasing after workers — there were nearly 1.5 job openings at the end of October for every person on unemployment — the pressure may be building for faster wage gains.

On top of that is whether the spike already seen in inflation will scare U.S. households into speeding up purchases to get ahead of any further price increases. That could create its own feedback loop, driving prices higher.

"We've seen a real awareness on Main Street that prices have gone up," ADP's Richardson said.

"It's a concern because when you're battling inflation on multiple fronts — it's not just the supply chain, it's not just the labor market shortages, but now you've got the consumer who's in the mix — it just increases the difficulty in bringing inflation under control." □





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

- 1 Spooky board
- 6 Deadly
- 11 Fiery crime
- 12 Andean animal
- 13 Drawer pulls
- 14 Saudi Arabia neighbor
- 15 Influence
- 17 Finish
- 18 Academic types
- 22 Stunt plane maneuver
- 23 Patisserie workers
- 27 Take as one's own
- 29 Playful sprite
- 30 Gauges
- 32 Witty remark
- 33 Solitary sorts
- 35 Gallery fill
- 38 Neeson of "Taken"
- 39 Reef material
- 41 Dropped-tomato sound
- 45 Half of Hispaniola
- 46 Take care of
- 47 Borders
- 48 Heart, for one

## DOWN

- 1 Mighty tree
- 2 Coffee dispenser
- 3 Equal: Prefix
- 4 One who changes occupations often
- 5 Photographer Adams
- 6 Botanical snapper
- 7 Pub drink
- 8 Not wild
- 9 Church reply
- 10 Touch down
- 16 Beatles descriptor

C	A	S	T	S		L	E	A	S	T
H	O	H	U	M		E	A	R	T	H
A	R	E	N	A		O	T	T	E	R
S	T	E	A	L	S			F	E	E
T	A	N		L	E	I	S	U	R	E
E	S	S		C	A	M	E	L	S	
			P	A	W	A	T			
	L	A	U	R	E	L		E	C	O
C	O	U	N	S	E	L		N	O	W
O	A	R				D	E	A	D	O
A	T	O	M	S			A	L	I	K
S	H	R	E	K			R	O	V	E
T	E	A	R	Y			S	E	E	D

Saturday's answer

- 18 Close with a bang
- 19 App makeup
- 20 Owl call
- 21 Winter Olympics competitor
- 24 Former spouses
- 25 Ascend
- 26 Collec-tions
- 28 Creeper supporter
- 31 Biol. or geol.
- 34 Rodeo rope
- 35 Dull pain
- 36 Highway
- 37 Math course
- 40 Devoured
- 42 Pants part
- 43 One — time
- 44 Great weight

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
			15		16		17		
18	19	20				21			
22				23			24	25	26
27				28		29			
30				31		32			
			33		34				
35	36	37		38					
39			40		41		42	43	44
45					46				
47					48				

12-13

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-13

CRYPTOQUOTE

DRQU TWM KWV'U BFF DIUR

TW MY FTFB KWV'U DHUVFBB

DIUR TW MY OWMUR

THKKHBR ZYWSFYI

Saturday's Cryptoquote: IN A ROOM WHERE PEOPLE UNANIMOUSLY MAINTAIN A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE, ONE WORD OF TRUTH SOUNDS LIKE A PISTOL SHOT. — CZESLAW MILOSZ

# Fox anchor Chris Wallace makes his own news with move to CNN



Moderator Chris Wallace of Fox News speaks as President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden participate in the first presidential debate in Cleveland on Sept. 29, 2020.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Veteran anchor Chris Wallace has left Fox News after 18 years for CNN, dealing a significant blow to Fox's news operation at a time that it has been overshadowed by the network's opinion side. Wallace delivered the surprising news that he was leaving at the end of the "Fox News Sunday" show he moderates, and within two hours CNN announced he was joining its new streaming service as an anchor. CNN+ is expected to debut in early 2022.

"It is the last time, and I say this with real sadness, we will meet like this," Wallace, who is 74, said on his show, which airs on the Fox network and is later rerun on Fox News Channel. "Eighteen years ago, the bosses here at Fox promised me they would never interfere with a guest I booked or a question I asked. And they kept that promise."

Wallace was a veteran broadcast network newsmen, working at both ABC and NBC News, before the late Roger Ailes lured him to Fox with the promise of his own Sunday show. Methodical and never showy — in contrast to his father Mike, the legendary "60 Minutes" reporter — Chris Wallace was known for his willingness to ask hard questions of all guests no matter their politics.

He was the first Fox News personality to moderate a presidential debate, doing it in 2016 and 2020. The debate he moderated last

year went off the rails when then-President Donald Trump repeatedly interrupted Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

"He is the most tenacious interviewer in the television business, based on intense preparation and plain old persistence," said Howard Kurtz, host of Fox's "Media Buzz." "He has the kind of seasoned judgment that only comes from so many years of covering political issues and he may be the best debate moderator ever."

Kurtz said it was "a major loss for Fox News, no question about it."

Wallace generally coexisted with Fox's opinion side and infrequently took them on publicly, although in 2017 he said it was "bad form" when opinion hosts bashed the media.

But he had grown privately frustrated with the overall tenor at Fox, where conservative opinion hosts have been elevated and amplified, particularly after the network's ratings took a brief hit following the 2020 election. The network ousted two news executives involved in the controversial — but correct — Election Night declaration that Biden had won in Arizona, a call that infuriated Republican Trump.

Wallace had expressed his concern about the strident opinion programming to Fox executives multiple times, including recently after Tucker Carlson's documentary on the Jan.

6 Capitol insurrection, "Patriot Purge," aired on Fox's streaming service. Two Fox News contributors, Jonah Goldberg and Stephen Hayes, cited that program in choosing to quit the network. Wallace was one of a prominent triumvirate of straight-news anchors at Fox who offered a contrast to popular opinion hosts such as Carlson and Sean Hannity. Shepard Smith left in 2019 and is now doing a news show at CNBC. Bret Baier remains at Fox as host of a Washington-based evening news program.

His track record had given Wallace a large measure of independence at Fox, despite the network's overall tilt. "I have been free to report to the best of my ability, to cover the stories I think are important, to hold our country's leaders to account," he said on Sunday. "It's been a great ride."

His announcement came as a surprise; even guests on his show Sunday hadn't been tipped off they were seeing his finale.

In contrast to when Smith left, Wallace was coming to the end of his contract with Fox. But he turned down an offer for a multiyear extension and pay raise to leave for CNN.

"We are extremely proud of our journalism and the stellar team that Chris Wallace was a part of for 18 years," Fox said on Sunday. "The legacy of 'Fox News Sunday' will continue."

Until a successor is named, Fox said Wallace will be replaced by a rotating series of guest anchors, including Baier, John Roberts, Shannon Bream, Martha MacCallum, Jennifer Griffin, Neil Cavuto, Dana Perino and Bill Hemmer.

Wallace said that he wanted to "try something new, to go beyond politics to all the things I'm interested in." In CNN's announcement, he said, "I look forward to the new freedom and flexibility streaming affords in interviewing major figures across the news landscape — and finding new ways to tell stories." □



# 'The internet's on fire' as techs race to fix software flaw

**BOSTON (AP)** — A critical vulnerability in a widely used software tool — one quickly exploited in the on-line game Minecraft — is rapidly emerging as a major threat to organizations around the world.

"The internet's on fire right now," said Adam Meyers, senior vice president of intelligence at the cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike. "People are scrambling to patch," he said, "and all kinds of people scrambling to exploit it." He said Friday morning that in the 12 hours since the bug's existence was disclosed that it had been "fully weaponized," meaning malefactors had developed and distributed tools to exploit it.

The flaw may be the worst computer vulnerability discovered in years. It was uncovered in a utility that's ubiquitous in cloud servers and enterprise software used across industry and government. Unless it is fixed, it grants criminals, spies and programming novices alike easy access to internal networks where they can loot valuable data, plant malware, erase crucial information and much more.

"I'd be hard-pressed to think of a company that's not at risk," said Joe Sullivan, chief security officer for Cloudflare, whose online infrastructure protects websites from malicious actors. Untold millions of servers have it installed, and experts said



Lydia Winters shows off Microsoft's "Minecraft" built specifically for HoloLens at the Xbox E3 2015 briefing before Electronic Entertainment Expo, June 15, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

the fallout would not be known for several days.

Amit Yoran, CEO of the cybersecurity firm Tenable, called it "the single biggest, most critical vulnerability of the last decade" — and possibly the biggest in the history of modern computing.

The vulnerability, dubbed 'Log4Shell,' was rated 10 on a scale of one to 10 the Apache Software Foundation, which oversees development of the software. Anyone with the exploit can obtain full access to an unpatched computer that uses the software,

Experts said the extreme ease with which the vulnerability lets an attacker access a web server — no password required — is what makes it so dangerous.

New Zealand's computer emergency response team was among the first to report that the flaw was being "actively exploited in

the wild" just hours after it was publicly reported Thursday and a patch released. The vulnerability, located in open-source Apache software used to run websites and other web services, was reported to the foundation on Nov. 24 by the Chinese tech giant Al-

ibaba, it said. It took two weeks to develop and release a fix.

But patching systems around the world could be a complicated task. While most organizations and cloud providers such as Amazon should be able to update their web servers easily, the same Apache software is also often embedded in third-party programs, which often can only be updated by their owners. □



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# Balanced Bucks cruise past short-handed Knicks 112-97

By DENIS P. GORMAN

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Khris Middleton scored 24 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo had his first triple-double of the season to lead the Milwaukee Bucks to a 112-97 victory over the short-handed New York Knicks on Sunday.

One of seven Bucks in double-digit scoring, Antetokounmpo had 20 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds. Bobby Portis Jr. added 19 points, Rodney Hood had 14, Jrue Holliday chipped in 13, Grayson Allen contributed 12 and Pat Connaughton netted 10.

"We're seeing different guys come in and make plays and make shots," Allen said. "Different guys are going off each night or there will be stretches when somebody hits some big shots. Tonight it was (Portis) for a stretch, then (Hood) coming in and getting 14 off the bench. That's huge."

Milwaukee (18-10) never trailed as it won its second straight game and 10th out of 12 overall.

"We talk a lot about being unselfish and making the right play, having high-IQ guys that are willing to make the right pass," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "It was a good team effort."



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) drives to the basket against New York Knicks guard Quentin Grimes (6) and forward Julius Randle (30) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in New York, Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021.

Associated Press

New York (12-15) has lost three in a row and seven of 10.

In his first NBA start, Quentin Grimes scored 27 for the Knicks and set a team record for the most 3-pointers made in a game by a rookie with seven. Grimes' 27 points were the most points by a Knicks rookie in a game since 1996-97.

"I always prepare myself for a moment like this," Grimes said. "But it was definitely a surreal moment and I was just trying to soak it all in."

Derrick Rose and Kevin

Knox scored 18 points apiece, and Immanuel Quickley finished with 11.

The third of four regular-season matchups between the Eastern Conference franchises reinforced why the Bucks and Knicks exist on significantly different plains in the NBA strata.

Milwaukee came out firing on all cylinders, with the Bucks leading 9-1 4:07 into the game and 26-16 at the end of the first quarter. The lead was stretched to 54-33 after Portis' 3-point play with 4:28 left in the second quar-

ter. At halftime, Milwaukee had a 61-48 advantage.

"Turnovers in the first half really hurt us," said New York coach Tom Thibodeau, whose team committed nine turnovers in the first two quarters, which led to 20 points for Milwaukee. "You give a team like that points like that, it's hard to make up."

But the Knicks fought back behind Grimes and Rose in the third quarter.

Grimes scored 12 points, all on 3s, Rose had 10 and New York cut the deficit to

nine on three separate occasions.

That was as close as it would get. Milwaukee outscored New York 6-1 over the final 1:26 of the quarter and pushed the advantage to 19 after Antetokounmpo's floater with 5:49 left in the game.

"We just have a great team," Hood said.

TIP-INS

Bucks: Like he has against seemingly every team in the league, Antetokounmpo has enjoyed great individual success playing against New York. Entering the matinee, Antetokounmpo averaged 21.9 points, 9.8 rebounds and four assists in 28 career games — including 25 starts — against the Knicks. He started quickly Sunday, having a hand in Milwaukee's first nine points (four points, two assists) and finished the first quarter with eight points, four rebounds, and two assists.

Knicks: Starting swingman R.J. Barrett and key reserve Obi Toppin missed the game because they are in the league's health and safety protocols, and the team announced before the game that starting point guard Alec Burks was out due to personal reasons. Thibodeau started Rose in place of Burks and Grimes replaced Barrett. □

# American Joey Mantia wins 1,500 in World Cup speedskating



Joey Mantia, of the United States, skates during the men's 1500-meter competition at the ISU World Cup speed skating event in Calgary, Alberta, Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021.

Associated Press

**CALGARY, Alberta (AP)** — Joey Mantia of the United States won the men's 1,500 meters at the World Cup speedskating meet in Cal-

gary for the second straight week.

Mantia finished first in 1 minute, 41.86 seconds — a half-second off the track re-

cord — on Saturday at the Calgary Olympic Oval. The 35-year-old American won the 1,500 last weekend on home ice in Salt Lake City.

"I had a big weekend last weekend and I thought I would be ready again this week, but I'm not," Mantia said. "I was questioning whether or not I'd be able to do anything this weekend. So it's nice to know that even not prepared, or not what I think I should be to win, I'm able to hit the podium."

Connor Howe of Canada took silver in 1:42.42. Allan Dahl Johansson of Norway earned bronze at 1:43.27 for his first individual World Cup medal since 2018. American Emery Lehman

was fourth.

Angelina Golikova of Russia earned first World Cup victory of the season in the women's 500, winning in 36.66 seconds.

Defending Olympic champion Nao Kodaira of Japan earned silver in 36.76. American Erin Jackson took bronze at 36.92.

"There's a lot of things to learn from this and then I'm ready to take a little break, regroup and come back strong," Jackson said.

Kodaira won the women's 1,000 in 1:12.51 for her first World Cup win of the season. American Brittany Bowe claimed silver in 1:12.54, just 0.03 seconds behind. Olga Fatkulina of Russia settled for bronze at

1:13.15.

Bowe was the only one to stake a sub-28 second final lap in 27.89.

"That was one of my best finishes I've had," she said. Isabelle Weidemann, Ivanie Blondin and Valérie Maltais earned the third straight World Cup win for Canada in women's team pursuit. They finished in 2:52.06, setting a national and track record.

Japan took silver and China earned bronze.

Bart Hoolwerf of the Netherlands won the men's mass start in 7:38.88, securing a second Olympic berth for the Dutch in the event. Bart Swings of Belgium took silver and Felix Rijhnger of Germany earned bronze. □



# Saints end 5-game skid with 30-9 victory over skidding Jets

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)** — Alvin Kamara ran for 120 yards and a touchdown in his return from a four-game absence, and the New Orleans Saints snapped a five-game losing streak with a 30-9 victory over the New York Jets on Sunday.

Taysom Hill ran for two scores and shook off a banged-up finger on his throwing hand to pass for 175 yards for the Saints (6-7), whose skid was their longest since Sean Payton took over as coach in 2006. Brett Maher added three field goals and the defense stifled Zach Wilson and New York's short-handed offense as the Jets (3-10) were eliminated from playoff contention. They have missed the postseason 11 straight years, tying the franchise's longest drought set from 1970-80. It is also the longest active skid in the NFL. Hill, who injured his right middle finger in the Saints' previous game, finished 15 of 21 passing and ran for 73 yards on 11 carries.

Kamara, who missed four games with a sprained knee, looked fully healthy again while carrying the ball 27 times in his fifth career 100-yard rushing performance. He also caught four passes for 25 yards.

New York was missing wide receivers Corey Davis (groin) and Elijah Moore (quadriceps) and running backs Michael Carter (high ankle sprain) and Tevin Coleman (concussion) — and it showed. The Jets went just 3 of 14 on third down.

The rookie was coming off his best performance of his NFL career, but missed receivers short at times and overthrew them at others. He finished 19 of 42 for 202 yards.

After not getting a first down on their first three possessions, Wilson got one right away with an 18-yard scramble. He converted another a few minutes later, completing a 14-yard pass to a sliding Braxton Berrios on fourth-and-7 from the 35. But the drive stalled and Eddy Pineiro, the Jets' third kicker in as many games, booted a 36-yard field goal

to tie it at 3 — prompting some mock cheers from the MetLife Stadium crowd. A few minutes later, an interference penalty by Justin Hardee on a punt by the Jets put the Saints at their 46 to start. And Kamara sliced through the Jets' porous run defense.

On his fourth straight carry, Kamara took the handoff from Hill, made a pretty juke to slip a tackle attempt by Bryce Hall and then zipped into the end zone for a 16-yard TD that gave New Orleans a 10-3 lead. Kamara had 35 yards on four carries on the drive.

Pineiro ended the first half with a 46-yarder to make it 10-6. The Jets got down to the Saints 24, but consecutive penalties on wide receiver Denzel Mims — il-



New Orleans Saints' Alvin Kamara, left, scores a touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game against the New York Jets, Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

legal hands to the face and illegal formation — hindered the drive.

Maher's 31-yarder increased the Saints' lead to 13-6 with 58 seconds left in the third quarter after

New Orleans chewed up 9:01 on the drive. Maher added a 37-yarder early in the fourth quarter. With the Jets trailing by two scores, they went for it on fourth-and-6 from their 49 and Wil-

son's pass to Keelan Cole went off the receiver's outstretched hands as Marcus Williams disrupted the play. That gave the Saints the ball and Hill capped the drive with a 2-yard TD run. He capped his day with a 44-yard touchdown scamper — the longest of his career — with 1:07 remaining.

## INJURIES

Jets RB Austin Walter was active, but didn't play because of an illness, the team announced midway through the second quarter.

## IN MEMORY

The Jets held a moment of silence before the game in honor of former wide receiver Demaryius Thomas, who died Thursday night in his suburban Atlanta home at 33. □

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such as the Spicy Caribbean Seafood pasta, Mahi Mahi or pan fried Red Snapper served with Aruban creole sauce or garlic lemon butter. For the carnivores among us there are choices of 8 ounce seasoned Filet Mignon, 12 ounce Rib Eye steak or a French Rack of Lamb seasoned and grilled to perfection. With choices of extra sides of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wines from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu. Vegetarians will enjoy the roasted vegetable pasta tossed in a light butter sauce and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese. As desserts the choices are wild. Homemade key lime pie, coconut flan served with caramel sauce and whipped cream or a NY cheese cake, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce vanilla ice cream and whipped cream or a delicious oven fresh carrot cake served with orange sauce and candied pecans.



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